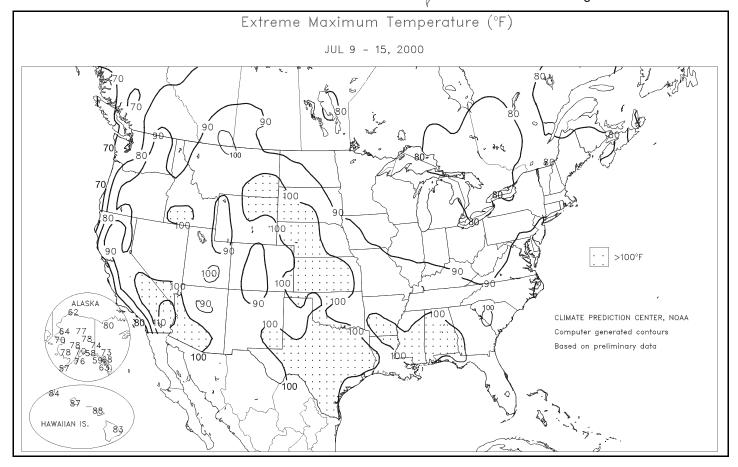
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HIGHLIGHTS

July 9 - 15, 2000

ignificant rain dampened the Corn Belt for the tenth consecutive week, maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture for silking corn and blooming soybeans. Farther east, cool, wet conditions affected southern New England and the northern Mid-Atlantic region, further slowing fieldwork and crop development. Meanwhile, scattered showers provided only limited relief to heat- and drought-stressed pastures and summer crops in the Southeast. Very hot, mostly dry weather prevailed from the **Plains** eastward to the **Delta**, depleting topsoil moisture and increasing stress levels on livestock, pastures, and dryland summer crops. Topsoils remained extremely

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